

## Pope Holds Historic Talk in Congress, Visits New York



Pope Francis listens to applause before addressing a joint meeting of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015, making history as the first pontiff to do so.

(AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)

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## Pope Holds Historic Talk in Congress, Visits New York

NICOLE WINFIELD  
ERICA WERNER  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Pope Francis plunged into the melting pot of New York after reminding the country of its immigrant origins in the first papal speech before Congress on Thursday. Over an intense 40 hours that started with an evening prayer service at St. Patrick's Cathedral, where he gave a deeply meaningful thank you to America's nuns, he will address world leaders at the United Nations, participate in an interfaith service at the Sept. 11 memorial museum at ground zero and celebrate Mass at Madison Square Garden.

The pope, who's making his first trip to the United States, also planned to visit a school on Friday and take a processional drive through Central Park.

The popular pontiff received a raucous welcome on his first visit to New York. Thousands of people lined the streets leading to St. Patrick's to greet him, cheering, waving flags and adoringly chanting his name as he gestured toward them from his pope-mobile. On the steps of the recently spruced up cathedral, dignitaries including Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Mayor Bill de Blasio and U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer welcomed him. Later, inside, nuns in the pews erupted in applause when he thanked them for their service.

The pope opened his visit to New York by expressing his solidarity with Muslims following a Mecca pilgrimage stampede in Saudi Arabia in which more than 700 people were killed. He offered a prayer for the victims from the St. Patrick's altar.

"In this moment of prayer, I unite myself with you all in prayer to God, our father, the all-powerful and merciful," he said.

In Washington earlier Thursday, the pope had waded into bitter disputes while speaking to Congress, entreating the nation to

share its immense wealth with those less fortunate. He urged Congress and the nation to abolish the death penalty, fight global warming and embrace immigrants. Lawmakers gave rousing ovations to the leader of the world's Catholics despite obvious disagreements over some of his pleas.

After he addressed Congress, the first pontiff to do so, he underscored his message by traveling to a downtown Washington church, where he mingled with needy and homeless people, blessed their noon-time meal and walked among them while they ate.

Soon after, he headed by plane to New York, second stop on his three-city first visit to the U.S. He addresses the U.N. on Friday and wraps up his visit this weekend in Philadelphia, where he speaks in front of Independence Hall and celebrates Mass on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. At the Capitol, the remarkable sight of the pope speaking in the House chamber seemed to delight lawmakers of all persuasions, though he offered an agenda more to Democrats' liking. Besides his focus on climate change and immigration, he denounced arms sales and seemed to allude approvingly to the Iran nuclear deal and recent actions by President Barack Obama's administration to open relations with Cuba, done with his urging.

Republicans, too, heard something to like in his references to the sanctity of life and family relations, reminders that even the more open Catholic Church over which Francis presides still condemns abortion and gay marriage.

For all the spectacle, it seemed unlikely the pope's visit would break congressional inertia on the issues dear to him, with no action in sight from the Republican majority on global warming or immigration.

But Francis, in his historic speech, seemed deter-

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Pope Francis waves as he arrives at St. Patrick's Cathedral to lead an evening prayer service, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015, in New York.

(AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)

mined to remind the United States of its foundations as a country made up of

foreigners, addressing the chamber and the American people beyond in

personal terms as a son of immigrants to "this great continent." □





## Tour vehicle, charter bus collide on Seattle bridge; 4 dead

**PHUONG LE**  
**Associated Press**

**SEATTLE (AP)** — A “duck boat” tour vehicle and a charter bus carrying foreign college students collided on a busy Seattle bridge Thursday, killing four people and sending dozens to hospitals.

The collision happened on the Aurora Bridge, which carries one of the city’s main north-south highways over a lake. At least eight people were in critical condition, and many others suffered lesser injuries. There was no immediate word about the cause of the crash, which involved a military-style tour bus that can also be operated on water. Initial reports described the accident as a head-on collision.

A driver who was behind the duck boat said the tour bus and duck boat were headed in opposite directions. Brad Volm of Philadelphia said the amphibious vehicle swerved in front of him. The left front tire of the duck boat appeared to lock up, and the vehicle swerved into the oncoming charter bus, he said.

Witnesses described hearing a loud screech and then seeing injured people lying on the pavement or wandering around in a daze.

Nurse Jahna Dyer said she was walking across the bridge when she came upon the scene, a mess of

jumbled metal and glass. Some victims were lying on the road. Others milled about, seemingly in shock and falling down.

Dyer jumped a railing separating the sidewalk from

peared to be a few dozen people on the ground. “I wanted to try to help. I felt helpless.”

When emergency crews arrived, “a lot of people were running at them,”

lead tourists around the city.

Company President Brian Tracey said he did not know what happened. “Our main concern right now is with the families of

an Melissa Mixon said the uninjured students and staff were taken back to campus, where counselors were on hand.

Kuen Shouh Wu says his 18-year-old daughter was on the charter bus from North Seattle College, but was not hurt. He and his daughter, Ming Chao Wu, are from Taiwan, and he is a visiting scholar at the University of Washington. Wu said when he learned of the accident, he came to the school.

“I was scared,” he said. “I don’t know why it happened.”

The bridge was expected to be closed for hours. It has three lanes in each direction and no barrier separating the north and southbound lanes.

The crash occurred near Canlis, one of the city’s fanciest restaurants. The restaurant announced it would close for the night in response. Instead, its employees carried food over to first responders.

The safety of the amphibious boats has been questioned before. Lawyer Steve Bulzomi represented a motorcyclist who was run over and dragged by a Ride the Ducks boat that came up behind him at a stoplight in downtown Seattle in 2011.

“These are military craft that were never designed to navigate narrow city streets,” Bulzomi said Thursday. □



**Emergency personnel work at the scene of a fatal collision involving a charter bus, center left, and a “Ride the Ducks” amphibious tour bus on the Aurora Bridge in Seattle on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015.**  
(Ken Lambert/The Seattle Times via AP)

the roadway and helped stabilize an injured man’s neck. She said she also helped a woman who had a cut lip and glass in her eye.

“She was holding my hand and saying thank you,” she said.

John Mundell said he was at the south end of the bridge when the crash occurred.

“We could hear the screech and twisted metal. It was surreal,” he said, adding he saw what ap-

pealing for help, Seattle Fire Lt. Sue Stangl said.

Bloodworks Northwest, a blood-donation organization, issued an urgent appeal for donors, saying the need for transfusions for crash victims was straining their supply.

The amphibious vehicle is operated by a tour company called Ride the Ducks, which offers tours that are known for exuberant drivers and guides who play loud music and quack through speakers as they

those hurt and killed,” he said.

The National Transportation Safety Board sent a team to Seattle to investigate.

Because foreign students were on the charter bus, efforts were being made to contact consulates, Mayor Ed Murray said. He had no other details.

Students and staff from North Seattle College’s International Program were among those who were hurt. School spokeswom-



# US Senate leader moves ahead with stopgap spending bill



Senate Majority Leader Sen. Mitch McConnell of Ky. speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington. The Senate is preparing to vote on legislation that would keep the government open beyond next Wednesday's deadline at a price Democrats are certain to reject — stripping taxpayer money from Planned Parenthood. The next steps aren't set in stone, although McConnell has promised there won't be a government shutdown. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

**ANDREW TAYLOR**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The U.S. Senate's top Republican moved swiftly to avoid a government shutdown in six days, pushing legislation that would keep agencies operating without a contentious fight over money for women's health care provider Planned Parenthood.

The action of Majority Leader Mitch McConnell followed a decisive Senate vote blocking a bill that would have stripped Planned Parenthood of its taxpayer funding while keeping the government running through Dec. 11. Planned Parenthood, a nonprofit organization, has long been targeted by Republicans, but their efforts

have intensified after the release of secretly recorded videos that raised questions about its handling of fetal tissue provided to scientific researchers. The group says it is doing nothing wrong and isn't profiting from such practices in violation of federal law. The Senate vote was 47-52, falling short of a majority

and well shy of the 60 votes required in the 100-member chamber to overcome delaying tactics led by Democrats. Eight Republicans, several of whom support abortion rights, voted with 42 Democrats and two independents to kill the measure.

McConnell immediately offered a bipartisan stopgap spending bill free of the Planned Parenthood dispute that's expected to easily clear the Senate next week by a wide bipartisan margin. He has for almost a year promised that Republicans controlling Congress won't repeat the government shutdown of two years ago that hurt the party politically.

In the House, Republican leaders called a meeting

of their fractious rank and file for Friday to discuss whether to accept the Senate's move or reject it at the risk that continuing the fight over Planned Parenthood would lead to a government shutdown.

The White House signaled President Barack Obama would sign the measure, called a continuing resolution, into law — if the House steps aside from the fight tea party Republicans want over "defunding" Planned Parenthood.

"I think we all know we're going to have a clean CR," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, a Republican, using congressional code. "The House is going to figure out what the House is going to do but we can't shut down the government." □

## Rubio calls Trump 'touchy and insecure'

**ADAM BEAM**  
**Associated Press**

**FRANKFORT, Kentucky (AP)** — Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio jabbed billionaire businessman Donald Trump as "touchy and insecure" on Thursday, joining the chorus of Trump critics who have intensified pressure on the Republican front-runner in recent weeks. The Florida senator also challenged Trump's command of the issues during an interview with Kentucky Sports Radio, the most widely listened-to sports talk show in the state. Before Thursday, Rubio was among the few Republican White House hopefuls who largely avoided engaging with Trump. A day earlier, Trump had called Rubio a "light-weight" while campaigning in South Carolina and

criticized his lack of foreign policy experience. The former reality television star has lashed out at several Republican rivals in a campaign consumed by personal attacks at times. Several national polls show Trump leading a crowded Republican presidential field, which includes former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Rubio. Despite his strong showing in the polls, Trump is still considered a long shot to win the presidency. Breaking his silence on Trump, Rubio responded Thursday that the real estate mogul is "not really well informed on the issues" and relies on attacking people. "He had a really bad debate performance last week. He's not well informed on the issues. He really never talks about issues and can't have more

than a ten-second soundbite on any key issue," Rubio said. "I think he's kind of been exposed a little bit over the last seven days and he's a touchy and insecure guy. So that's how he reacts and people can see through it." Rubio is one of several Republican presidential candidates taking an interest in Kentucky since the state party voted to have a presidential caucus on March 5 instead of its traditional primary in May. The shift allows Republican contender Rand Paul, the state's junior senator, to work around a state law banning candidates from appearing on the ballot twice in the same election. Paul, who is up for re-election in November as well, paid the state Republican party \$250,000 to cover the cost of the shift. □

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## Xi trades football for hardball political negotiations

GENE JOHNSON  
PHUONG LE

Associated Press

**SEATTLE (AP)** — With his feel-good tours of Boeing, Microsoft and a local high school complete, Chinese President Xi Jinping departs Washington state Thursday for the other Washington, where tougher discussions on cybersecurity, intellectual property protections and human rights await. President Barack Obama's administration said this week that he won't paper over disagreements between the two countries on those topics, even as the leaders find ground where they can work together on other issues, including trade and climate change.

Xi struck a gracious tone

during his 48-hour stay in Seattle, during which he toured Boeing's plant in Everett, visited Microsoft's campus in Redmond, and received a football jersey with his name on it from high school students in Tacoma.

In his public remarks, at a dinner banquet and at a meeting of top corporate leaders from both nations, Xi stressed the importance of U.S.-China business relations and vowed that his country would work to remove barriers to foreign investment and to improve intellectual property protections.

He also expressed a willingness to work with the U.S. on cybersecurity — a priority for Washington.

White House officials have



Vice President Joe Biden gestures toward Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan during an arrival ceremony in Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015. Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan are traveling to Washington for a State Visit.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

said hacking attacks originating from China are approaching epidemic levels. The administration believes Chinese espionage was behind one of the worst U.S. government data breaches in history, the theft of the personnel and security clearance records of tens of millions of government employees, contractors and their friends and families. On Wednesday, the Office of Personnel Management announced that an estimated 5.6 million fingerprint images were stolen — not 1.1 million as first thought.

"Problems are always outnumbered by solutions," Xi said Wednesday as he addressed the business leaders.

He received an enthusiastic reception at Lincoln High School in Tacoma, where students gave him a football and a personalized jersey.

"He said it'll fit him really well," said 17-year-old

Mushawn Knowles, who presented the jersey to Xi. "And hopefully we can have influence on him to love football."

Xi had presents of his own, giving the school books about his country, a ping pong table and balls, and inviting 100 students to be his guests in China.

Xi is scheduled to arrive Thursday afternoon in Washington, D.C. He and Obama are scheduled to have a private dinner before Obama formally welcomes Xi and his wife at the White House for the official state visit Friday.

Apple Chief Executive Tim Cook, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, Amazon's Jeff Bezos, investor Warren Buffett and Jack Ma of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba were among the 30 executives who attended Xi's Seattle address on Wednesday. The speech followed a closed-door discussion Wednesday moderated by former U.S.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, whose organization, the Paulson Institute, organized the gathering. Paulson noted the difficult issues and increasing tensions facing the nations as he welcomed Xi. But Paulson added: "The reason that the U.S. and China have a nearly \$600 billion trading relationship, large amounts of U.S. investment in China, and increasing amounts of Chinese direct investment here, is because there are many areas where our national and business interests align." Xi agreed. Though he acknowledged hiccups as China shifts its economy from one driven by exports to one driven by a growing middle class, Xi told the group that China's economy will maintain a "steady medium and high speed of growth for a long time."

"China will open up still wider to the outside world," Xi said through an interpreter. □



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## US Financial Front:

# New-home sales surge 5.7 percent in August to 7-year high

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Buoyed by steady job gains and low mortgage rates, Americans purchased new homes in August at the fastest pace in more than seven years.

New-home sales surged 5.7 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 552,000, the Commerce Department said Thursday. That is the strongest pace since February 2008, near the beginning of the Great Recession. Last month's increase followed an even bigger 12 percent jump in July, according to the government's revised figures. Healthy hiring and smaller price increases for new homes have finally begun pushing up sales, which were hammered during the Great Recession and recovered slowly even

after the downturn ended in 2009. New-home sales have soared nearly 22 percent in the past year.

Sales figures for newly-built homes are notoriously volatile and typically revised heavily in subsequent months. But most economists were still encouraged by the gains.

"Housing has been an economic bright spot this year and activity in the new home construction market remains solid," said Michelle Girard, an economist at RBS Securities.

Surveys show that homebuilders' outlook is the most optimistic in a decade, a sign that construction could pick up. The supply of new homes has been scarce, so greater construction could result in more sales.

Strong gains in new-home sales and construction could accelerate the



A 'sold' sign is displayed in the yard of a newly built home in the Briar Chapel community in Chapel Hill, N.C. The Commerce Department reported on sales of new homes in August on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015.

(AP Photo/Gerry Broome)

economy by generating construction jobs, demand for more building materials and more spending on landscaping and other services.

Home builders raised new-

home prices aggressively last year, likely weighing on sales, which totaled just 414,000 in 2014. That was little changed from sales in 2013. But builders have reined in price increases

this year, fueling more buyer traffic and purchases.

Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, says that new-home prices jumped 10.7 percent in the final three months of last year, compared with a year earlier. But they rose just 0.8 percent in the April-June quarter from a year ago, he said.

In August, the median price for a new home was \$292,700, just \$600 higher than the previous month. The median is the price where half of all home prices are higher and half are lower.

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said last week that she expects the housing market to keep improving as more people find jobs and younger Americans increasingly move out on their own. □

## Average US rate on 30-year mortgages falls to 3.86 percent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Average long-term U.S. mortgage rates declined this week following the Federal Reserve's decision to keep interest rates at record lows for now.

Mortgage giant Freddie Mac said Thursday the average rate on a 30-year

fixed-rate mortgage fell to 3.86 percent from 3.91 percent a week earlier. The rate on 15-year fixed-rate mortgages eased to 3.08 percent from 3.11 percent. Rates have stayed below 4 percent for nine straight weeks. Fed policymakers announced last Thurs-

day they had decided to keep a key short-term interest rate close to zero in the face of threats from a weak global economy, persistently low inflation and unstable financial markets. But Fed Chair Janet Yellen said a rate hike was still likely this year. A

majority of Fed officials on the committee that sets the federal funds rate — which controls the interest which banks charge each other — still foresee higher rates before next year. The Fed will meet next in October and then December.

A rate hike by the Fed

could bring higher rates for home loans. The Fed has kept the federal funds rate near zero since the financial crisis struck seven years ago. To calculate average mortgage rates, Freddie Mac surveys lenders across the country at the beginning of each week. □



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## Over 700 killed in crush of hajj pilgrims in Saudi Arabia

**AYA BATRAWY**  
**Associated Press**

**MINA, Saudi Arabia (AP)**

— Two giant waves of Muslim pilgrims collided at an intersection Thursday near a holy site in Saudi Arabia, and more than 700 people were crushed and trampled to death in the worst disaster at the hajj in a quarter-century.

"People were climbing over one another just to breathe," said Abdullah Lotfy of Egypt. "It was like a wave. You go forward and suddenly you go back."

The hajj, which drew 2 million people from over 180 countries this year, is a huge logistical challenge for Saudi Arabia. The kingdom has spent billions of dollars to accommodate the growing number of pilgrims and maintain safety

and security at Islam's holy cities of Mecca and Medina for the annual event. Saudi authorities began an investigation, said Interior Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Mansour al-Turki, adding that initial reports showed two crowds coming from opposing directions converged at an intersection in Mina, on the outskirts of Mecca, when the pushing and shoving started.

"Unfortunately, these incidents happen in a moment," al-Turki said at a news conference.

But four survivors questioned how officials managing the flow of people could allow two big crowds going in different directions to intersect on two streets packed with pilgrims.



"What happened was more than they were

In this image posted on the official Twitter account of the directorate of the Saudi Civil Defense agency, a pilgrim is treated by a medic after a stampede that killed over 700 and injured countless pilgrims in the holy city of Mina during the annual hajj pilgrimage on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015.  
(Directorate of the Saudi Civil Defense agency via AP)

ready for," Lotfy, 44, told The Associated Press.

As of late Thursday, the Saudi civil defense directorate said the death toll was 719, but that probably would rise as bodies continued to be counted and sent to the morgue. At least 863 people were injured, the directorate said. An AP journalist saw bodies still lying on the ground more than 10 hours after the crush and ensuing stampede in Mina, a large valley containing 160,000 tents for accommodations about 5 kilometers (3 miles) from Mecca.

One crowd had just finished a ritual in which pilgrims throw pebbles at three stone columns representing the devil when it ran into another wave of people heading to perform the rite.

Sudanese pilgrim Mohammed Awad, 36, and his

56-year-old father were separated when people began pushing and shoving. Awad said he tried to get out of the crush of bodies for about 30 minutes and eventually climbed over a gate with others. It took him an hour before he could look for his father, who was under at least 10 bodies — but still alive.

"You can't count how many bodies there were. They were stacked high," Awad said.

Amateur video on social media showed scores of bodies — many still dressed in the simple terry cloth garments worn during hajj — lying amid crushed wheelchairs and water bottles on a sunbaked street.

Helicopters circled Mina throughout the day, ferrying the injured to hospitals, while military police blocked the streets where the deaths took place. □

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## IS suicide bomber kills 25 at mosque in Yemeni capital

**AHMED AL-HAJ**  
**Associated Press**

**SANAA, Yemen (AP)** — A suicide bomber struck a mosque in Yemen's rebel-held capital on Thursday, killing 25 worshippers during prayers for the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha. The Yemen-based Islamic State affiliate claimed responsibility for the blast, saying it was targeting the country's Shiite rebels. The explosion, which also wounded dozens of worshippers, tore through the al-Balayli mosque in the morning hours, according to Yemeni security officials. The mosque is located in an area where many residents support the Shiite rebels, also known as Houthis, who have controlled Sanaa since last September. The IS affiliate's claim of responsibility came in a statement circulated on Twitter by the Sunni militant group's supporters. The Associated Press could not independently verify the authenticity of the claim. The statement said IS targeted the Shiite rebels, whom the Sunni extremists view as heretics.

The security officials said the suicide bomber placed an explosive device in his shoe, causing an initial explosion. As worshippers rushed to the door, he detonated himself in the middle of the crowd, they said. The officials, who remain neutral in the conflict that has splintered the country,

spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. There were puddles of blood and debris outside the mosque, whose ornate facade was damaged by the blast. Police and some Houthi fighters came to inspect the aftermath. Eid al-Adha is a major Muslim holiday, also known as the Feast of Sacrifice. Yemen has been torn by a ferocious war pitting the Houthis and forces fighting for former President Ali Abdullah Saleh against fighters loyal to President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, as well as southern separatists, local militias and Sunni extremists. The Islamic State affiliate in Yemen has claimed responsibility for a series of suicide bombings in Sanaa targeting Shiites in the past months. American officials initially expressed skepticism that the affiliate existed, as Yemen is also home to the world's most dan-



**Shiite fighters, known as Houthis, inspect the scene at the al-Balayli mosque after two suicide bombings at the mosque during Eid al-Adha prayers in Sanaa, Yemen, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015. (AP Photo/Hani Mohammed)**

gerous al-Qaida offshoot. Also Thursday, four children and an adult were killed when Houthis and their allies fired mortar shells into a residential neighborhood in the city of Taiz, independent security officials and health officials said.

At least 21 civilians were wounded, they said, also speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters. The war in Yemen escalated in March when the Saudi-led coalition launched

a campaign involving air strikes and ground troops against Shiite Houthi rebels and their allies. More than 2,100 civilians have been killed, according to U.N. estimates. The coalition recently has sought to retake rebel-held Sanaa. □

## Dutch want UN to report on war-torn Yemen

**JAMEY KEATEN**  
**Associated Press**

**GENEVA (AP)** — Dutch diplomats want the U.N. human rights chief to send a mission to report on possible abuses and conflict-related crimes in Yemen, all but challenging Western and other nations to take a stand over a war that has

involved blistering Saudi air power and over 2,100 civilian deaths. The Netherlands submitted a resolution Thursday at the U.N. Human Rights Council in the face of another co-sponsored by Saudi Arabia, which has led a U.S.-backed coalition battling the Shiite rebels known as

Houthis in neighboring Yemen. The Saudi-Yemeni resolution wants the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Raad al-Hussein, to provide "technical assistance" to Yemen's government. The Dutch resolution sets the stage for back-channel diplomatic wrangling to

pass a resolution that may — or may not — authorize creation of a fact-finding mission in Yemen before the three-week council session ends on Oct. 2. The Human Rights Council has no power to compel countries to act, but its actions can shine a spotlight on human rights violations. □





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## Kremlin: Putin to meet Obama on Monday

JIM HEINTZ

Associated Press

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Vladimir

Putin and Barack Obama will meet on Monday in New York — their first face-to-face encounter in nearly a year amid strongly troubled relations between Russian and the U.S., but one in which the leaders have different priorities.

Putin wants to focus on the Syria crisis, where Russia is taking an increasingly assertive posture, while Obama's top issue is the conflict in Ukraine.

The announcement of the meeting was made Thursday by the Russian president's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, and confirmed by the White House.

Putin is speaking Monday at the U.N. General Assembly. Peskov said the meeting with Obama, expected to last about an hour, will take place afterward and will focus on the Syria crisis. The conflict in Ukraine, the crux of Moscow-Washington tensions, could also be discussed, but only if time allows, Peskov said.

But White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Ukraine will be "the top item" for Obama.

Russia is ramping up its



**Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a meeting on agriculture while visiting farms in Rostov region, Russia, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015.**

(Alexei Nikolsky/RIA-Novosti via AP)

involvement in the Syria war, which has left 250,000 dead and forced millions to flee their homeland since it began in March 2011. Russia recently has ferried weapons, troops and supplies to an airport near the Syrian coastal city of Latakia in what the U.S. sees as preparations for setting up an air base there.

Moscow has denied that it's building up its presence there in order to protect its longtime ally, Syrian President Bashar Assad, saying instead it wants to help him fight the Islamic State group.

U.S.-Russian relations dete-

riorated significantly after Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in March 2014. The U.S., as well as other Western countries, imposed sanctions on Russia over the annexation and over claims that Moscow is supporting an insurgency in eastern Ukraine with troops and arms.

Russia vehemently denies it is militarily involved in eastern Ukraine and portrays the sanctions and strong criticism from Washington as attempts to undermine Russia and force Putin from power.

"President Obama will once again use this occa-

sion to reinforce to President Putin that the importance of Russia keeping the commitments that they've made in the context of the Minsk agreements," Earnest said, referring to international agreements calling for a cease-fire and weapon pullbacks.

Earnest said Monday's meeting was called after "repeated requests from the Russians" and suggested that Russia's economic decline, partly a result of the sanctions, was a key concern for Putin.

The last time Putin and Obama were face-to-face was a series of brief encounters last November at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Beijing. They have spoken by telephone three times since then.

The White House said Monday's meeting was arranged at Putin's request and that despite deep differences with Moscow, Obama felt it would be irresponsible not to assess whether progress could be made on the Ukraine and Syria crises.

Peskov said Putin will also meet Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Monday. □

## Border tensions between Croatia, Serbia on the rise

D. KIRKA

D. STOJANOVIC

Associated Press

**ZAGREB, Croatia (AP)** —

Tensions escalated between Serbia and Croatia on Thursday as the longtime rivals struggled to come up with a coherent way to deal with tens of thousands of migrants streaming through the Balkan nations to seek sanctuary in other parts of Europe. Serbia banned imports from Croatia to protest Croatia's decision to close the border to cargo as the two countries criticized each other for their handling of migrants who are traveling through Serbia then onto Croatia on their way to Western Europe. Croatia responded by banning all Serbian-registered vehicles from entering the country. The increasingly acidic tone of exchanges is reminiscent of that used during the wars that accompanied the disintegration of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, when nationalists on both sides capitalized on the country's economic collapse and fanned ethnic tensions, touching off a bloody conflict that killed tens of thousands.

"We responded with economic measures without disrespect for Croatian citizens. Within 15 minutes, they responded in a way that reminds us of the events from the 1990s, and we wish to forget that," Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said. "We will not respond to this, because I simply do not know how to respond to that and stay an honest and normal person."

Croatia's move cut Serbia off from many of its main trading partners in Europe. □

## Israel military says coordinating with Russia on Syria

ARON HELLER

Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Israel

has set up a joint mechanism with the Russian military to coordinate their operations in Syria and avoid any accidental confrontations, a senior Israel military official said Thursday.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of military regulations, said that teams headed by each of the militaries' deputy chiefs will

hold their first meeting in two weeks and will discuss coordination of aerial, naval and electromagnetic operations around Syria.

Russia has backed the Assad regime throughout the nation's civil war, which has killed more than 250,000 people, and recently deployed forces there to help Syria in its battle against Islamic militants.

Russia has sought to cast arms supplies to Assad's

government as part of international efforts to combat the Islamic State group and other militant organizations in Syria.

The United States and its allies see Assad as the cause of the Syrian crisis, and Washington has warned Moscow against beefing up its presence. But those warnings have been softer in tone, compared to the original American position that demanded Assad's ouster.

The joint mechanism is a result of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's meeting this week in Moscow with President Vladimir Putin, in which Netanyahu raised concerns over the new Russian involvement.

Israel has mostly stayed on the sidelines throughout the Syrian war, though it has returned fire when rockets or mortar shells have strayed into Israeli-controlled territory. □





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# Political, legal barriers face historic Colombia peace deal

JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— A stunning diplomatic breakthrough leaves a minefield of problems standing between Colombia and the tantalizing prospect of peace after generations of armed conflict.

President Juan Manuel Santos and leaders of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia are celebrating Wednesday's announcement that they had crossed what many see as the point of no return after three years of peace talks by settling on a formula to punish human rights abuses.

They set a six-month deadline to sign a final agreement ending more than half a century of drug-fueled fighting.

Still to resolve, though, are legal obstacles, such as dozens of U.S. drug warrants for rebels and the threat of lawsuits by victims, as well as political considerations, such as widespread mistrust of the guerrillas' intentions and the puzzle of how to pay for peace at a time of economic malaise.

Under the terms, rebels who confess crimes to special tribunals, compensate victims and promise not to take up arms again will receive from five to a maximum of eight years of labor — but no prison time.

War crimes by government forces will also be judged by the tribunals, and combatants on either side of the conflict caught lying will face penalties of up to 20 years in jail.

Some critics complain the provisions are too light on a guerrilla group accused of repeatedly kidnapping civilians, forced recruitment of child soldiers and sexual



Cuba's President Raul Castro, center, encourages Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, left, and Commander the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia or FARC, Timoleon Jimenez, known as "Timochoenko", to shake hands, in Havana, Cuba. (AP Photo/Desmond Boylan)

violence.

Human Rights Watch said it's difficult to imagine how such an arrangement could survive a serious review by Colombian or international courts.

Former President Alvaro Uribe, whose military offensive helped push a weakened FARC to the negotiating table, said it would generate more violence and fuel impunity by put-

ting patriotic Colombian soldiers on the same witness stand as the "terrorists."

Uribe's comments foreshadow what's likely to be a bitter political fight to rat-

ify any deal. While details are still being worked out, Santos has vowed to hold at least a symbolic referendum and congress also must pass legislation implementing any deal.

Polls show Colombians overwhelmingly loathe the FARC, and as recently as June a majority favored trying to defeat the rebels militarily instead of negotiating with them.

Santos has acknowledged that Colombians will have to "swallow some toads" if they want to bring an end to a spiral of violence that has claimed more than 225,000 lives.

Then there's the whopping cost of attacking the root causes of the insurgency: crushing poverty, inequality and a lack of state presence in the Colombian countryside that have seen an exodus of more than 5 million internally displaced people. □

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## Mexico to create new prosecutor for country's disappeared

**MARK STEVENSON**

**Associated Press**

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — President Enrique Peña Nieto told the families of 43 students who disappeared a year ago in southern Mexico during a meeting Thursday that he would create a new special prosecutor for all of the country's thousands of missing people.

Eduardo Sanchez, the president's spokesman, told reporters after the closed-door meeting that the families had presented eight demands and that Peña Nieto had instructed his Cabinet to analyze each and get back to them.

More than 25,000 people have disappeared in Mexico between 2007 and July 31, 2015, according to the



**Ayotzinapa students chant during a rally by parents and supporters of 43 missing teacher's college students in the Zocalo, Mexico City's main square, Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2015.**

(AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell)

government. The students' disappearance on Sept. 26, 2014, brought the issue back into the spotlight.

Among the families' demands are a new interna-

tionally supervised investigation of the disappearances and an investigation of into those responsible for the initial inquiry, which the families believe was intend-

ed to mislead them.

Sanchez said after the meeting that there was not a clear timeframe for when the demands would be answered, but that it would be done promptly.

"Again and again we ask ourselves how could we trust again in an institution that tricked us," the families wrote in the letter delivered to the president.

Sanchez said Peña Nieto told the families: "We're on the same side. You and I are looking for the same thing."

The students disappeared Sept. 26, 2014, in the city of Iguala. They had gone there to commandeer buses that they wanted to use to attend a commemoration in Mexico City. The federal

government has said local police from Iguala and the nearby town of Cocula illegally detained the students and turned them over to the local drug gang Guerreros Unidos, which then allegedly killed them and incinerated their remains. The families have never accepted that version.

The government has said that it has identified two of the students from the burned remains recovered from a river in Cocula.

A team of international experts sent by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which spent six months reviewing the government's investigation, found a number of shortcomings and points of concern. □

## Woman accused of murder-for-hire extradited to Puerto Rico

**DANICA COTO**

**Associated Press**

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)**

— A Puerto Rican woman accused of hiring a hit man to kill her wealthy Canadian husband was extradited

to the U.S. territory Thursday after a lengthy international manhunt.

Aurea Vazquez Rijos arrived with her month-old baby and was escorted by FBI agents just hours before

she appeared in court. She flew in from Spain, where a court ordered her extradition nearly two years ago on the condition she doesn't receive the death penalty or life imprisonment without parole if convicted.

Vazquez did not speak during the brief court appearance and had not yet been appointed a lawyer. She will remain in custody until an Oct. 8 hearing. Puerto Rico's government said in a brief statement

that it was talking with FBI officials about the custody of Vazquez's baby, who was born in Spain.

A U.S. grand jury charged Vazquez in June 2008 with offering a man \$3 million to kill real estate developer Adam Anhang, a Winnipeg native who had moved to Puerto Rico a year before he was killed. The indictment said Anhang had an estimated net worth of \$24 million.

He was beaten and stabbed to death in Sep-

tember 2005 in the historic area of Puerto Rico's capital as he and Vazquez walked near a bar he had bought for her. They had met that night to discuss their pending divorce.

Vazquez refused to cooperate with police and filed a civil lawsuit against Anhang's family shortly after his death seeking \$1 million in damages and millions more from his estate. A judge dismissed the suit. Vazquez then vanished from Puerto Rico. □

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## US signs pact with USVI agency on pollution

**CHARLOTTE AMALIE, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP)** — The

water and power authority in the U.S. Virgin Islands has signed an agreement with federal agencies to slash the amount of air pollution from two plants. The settlement was announced Thursday by the U.S. Environmental Protec-

tion Agency and the Justice Department.

They say it resolves numerous violations of the Clean Air Act by the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority at its Krum Bay plant on St. Thomas and its Cruz Bay facility on St. John.

Federal officials say the

Virgin Islands authority will spend roughly \$12.2 million to comply with the pact and will also pay \$1.3 million in penalties.

EPA Regional Administrator Judith Enck says the settlement will "drastically reduce the amount of air pollution in the Virgin Islands." □





## Playa Linda Housekeepers Demonstrate Positive Attitudes



**PALM BEACH** – The effect of positive attitudes, making a positive difference, are readily on display each day from the Housekeeping Department at the Playa Linda Beach Resort. As the heart of the house, it is housekeepers that make the largest contribution in making the resort a home for Playa Linda's time-share owners and guests, as well as for their fellow employees. In recognition of not only what they do, but also how they do it, recent Housekeeping Week celebrations at the Playa Linda provided activities that ensured proper recognition was paid to these hardworking individuals.

The weeklong schedule began last Monday with a festive opening ceremony, complete with a Mariachi Band, and toasts made to help celebrate each individual housekeeper for his or her daily contributions.



An informative lecture on Tuesday, by Belquis Moreu, addressed best life practices, while the act of enjoying life's sweet moments was literally realized with a competition of Caribbean desserts, held on Wednesday.

Thursday was a daylong affair at De Palm Island, where housekeepers kicked back, and enjoyed each other's company over lunch, on the beach

and in taking part in the island's activities. Celebrations ended as they started, with additional toasts on Friday evening, where a lovely dinner out provided yet more reasons to delight in a well-deserved night out. "We are a family at the Playa Linda, and we support each other. So this Housekeeping Week we took the opportunity to further emphasize how important we are to each other.



How by working together and having a positive attitude, and encouraging others to do so, we can

overcome any challenge," comments Playa Linda Executive Housekeeper Ingrid Todd. □





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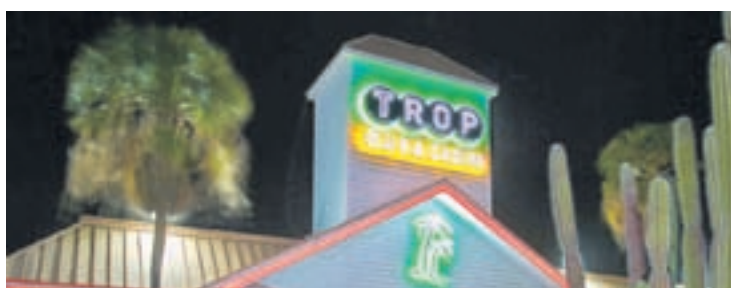
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And NFL Fanatics, when it comes game time, Double Down is the spot for fans to cheer for their favorite teams while sipping on ice-cold beers and delicious cocktails, taking in every game live in real time. The Trop Club & Casino is home to Aruba's best sports bar & grill - Double Down Sports Bar & Grill. Catch all the games, try our signature chicken wings and stay up-to-date on your fantasy team with the free Wi-Fi in the restaurant and lounge area.

The predictions for this weekend are that the New York Giants, Seattle Seahawks and Baltimore Ravens are going to win their first games, and do so convincingly Sunday in Week 3 of the NFL season. Top games to watch will be Thursday Night, with the Washington Redskins vs. New York Giants at 8:25pm, and on Sunday, at 1pm the Pittsburgh Steelers vs. St. Louis Rams, Minnesota Vikings vs. San Diego Chargers, Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs. Houston Texans, N.Y. Jets vs. Philadelphia Eagles, Carolina Panthers vs. New Orleans Saints, New England Patriots vs. Jacksonville Jaguars, Baltimore Ravens vs. Cincinnati Bengals, Oakland Raiders vs. Cleveland Browns, Tennessee Titans vs. Indianapolis

Colts, Atlanta Falcons vs. Dallas Cowboys, and at 4:05pm the San Francisco 49'ers vs. Arizona Cardinals, at 4:25pm, the Seattle Seahawks vs. Chicago Bears, Miami Dolphins vs. Buffalo Bills, and at 8:30PM the Detroit Lions vs. Denver Broncos, and on Monday Night, the Green Bay Packers vs. Kansas City Chiefs at

cials during all the games. While the NFL's top teams face off on the gridiron, our guests and sports fan are going to be able to order from the Double Down Snack Menu serving touchdown-worthy eats specially designed for the season by our Chef Pierre Fingal and his team.

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## Support Aramis and friends at the Donkey Sanctuary Aruba!



**ORANJESTAD** - We would like to introduce Aramis to you, one of the donkeys that has found a home at the Aruba Donkey Sanctuary. We have never seen a donkey that was so easily accepted by the herd as Aramis. Normally it takes quite a while before the herd accepts a newcomer, but with Aramis and his friend Ninja it went without a hitch. We only separated them for one night, but one noticed that the herd was not opposed to this gorgeous, dark grey donkey. So put into the herd, and loving every moment at the Aruba Donkey Sanctuary. Aramis can look forward to staying a long, long time with us, as he is

just four years old. This beautiful donkey has been provided with a chip, just like all the other donkeys. On the chip is information about the donkey and its medical history. The donkeys at the sanctuary have a lot of friends with whom they can play all day long. And they love living there: they are well-cared for, they are fed and watered and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers for the sanctuary. The volunteers are trying to cover the various costs with all kinds of activities and the sale of great donkey memorabilia in the shop. Fortunately, there are also

visitors who wish to adopt a donkey, who buy something at the donkey shop or who make a donation. Thus they help support us. Everyone is welcome to visit the sanctuary, which has opening hours from 9 am until 4 pm and in the weekend from 10 am until 3. Entry is free of charge and one can enjoy a soft drink, a cup of coffee or a refreshing ice cream.

The volunteers of the sanctuary are hoping that somebody will adopt this friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary; you only need to pay AWG. 30,- per month for the donkey's keep. With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super

T-shirt and your name and photo will be posted on our website. So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933; you can also register via the website [www.arubandonkey.org](http://www.arubandonkey.org) or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba Bank! Just do it! Would you like to follow the donkeys on Facebook: surf to Donkey Sanctuary Aruba please. □



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## Tarmey Family Honored by the Aruba Tourism Authority



**PALM BEACH** - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple as Goodwill Ambassadors at the Casa del Mar Beach Resort. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of ap-

preciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-to-34 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. John and Mrs. Sandy Tarmey from Florida, who were honored on the occasion of their 28th consecutive visit! John and Sandy are loyal guests at the Casa del Mar Beach Resort, and they love Aru-

ba very much because of the friendly people, the gorgeous sunsets and the trade winds. They say being on Aruba and staying at the Casa del Mar is like being in paradise. The certificates were presented by Mrs. Marouska Heyliger of the Aruba Tourism Authority. □

## THE MILL RESORTS & SUITE WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE "EAT LOCAL ARUBA RESTAURANT WEEK!!!!"

It is with great Pleasure and Enthusiasm, that The Mill Resort & Suite is participating in this year Eat Local Aruba Restaurant Week, organized by ATA!!

The timing could not have been better for us at The Mill Resort, since we started a couple months ago, to Revamp the Concept and the Menu of "The Mill Restaurant" located right by the pool deck, where all our local clients, and guest can visit us and experience Fine Dining, either in the Restaurant, or under the stars outside on the terrace!!

Our Chef "Sonny" former executive chef at the La Cabana beach resort & casino with more than 25 years of experience in International and Local cuisine, will delight you with our Mouthwatering dishes from our "International Menu, with a Caribbean Flare!!!

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## NFL will only place team in London if it will be competitive

STEPHEN WILSON

AP Sports Wilson

**LONDON (AP)** — The NFL would only put a full-time franchise in London if all operational issues are worked out and the league is sure the team would be competitive, a league executive said Thursday.

Mark Waller, executive vice president of the NFL's international division, said there is no time frame for possibly placing a team in London, adding that a decision will come "when we're ready."

The NFL has played 11 regular-season games in London since 2007. Wembley Stadium will host three more games this season, starting with the Miami Dolphins against the New York Jets on Oct. 4.

The NFL recently announced a 10-year deal to play at least two games each season at Premier League club Tottenham's new stadium, which is scheduled to open in 2018. The Jacksonville Jaguars have a four-season deal, which expires in 2016, to play at least one home game per season at Wembley. NFL officials have said for years that they envisage having a franchise in London one day, though many issues still need to be resolved and the league wants to be sure an overseas team would be profitable.

"The key for us is that we've got to build real certainty that any team that was to make that undertaking could truly be competitive," Waller said in a conference call.

Continued on Page 19

# Tour Championship



## The chase begins for \$10 million

Justin Rose watches his shot from the second tee during first round play in the Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Club Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015, in Atlanta.

Associated Press  
Page 18



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## Stenson feeling right at home at East Lake

**DOUG FERGUSON**

**AP Golf Writer**

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Just getting to East Lake is the challenge for Henrik Stenson. Playing the golf course appears to be the easy part. Two years after his wire-to-wire victory to capture the FedEx Cup, Stenson was just as dominant Thursday until he stalled at the end and had to settle for a 7-under 63 and a two-shot lead over Paul Casey in the Tour Championship. Stenson ripped a 4-wood from 288 yards to 25 feet and made the eagle putt on the par-5 ninth to go out in 29. He added two more birdies to reach 8 under through 12 holes until he made pars the rest of the way and his lone bogey on the 17th.

Even so, it was just the start he wanted on a course that he has figured out. Stenson opened with a 64 two years ago, stretched his lead to as many as nine shots in the third round and joined Tom Watson as the only wire-to-wire winners of the Tour Championship. He missed last year when he failed to get into the top 30 who qualify for the FedEx Cup finale, and knew he only needed to get back to have a chance.

"I wanted to get out of the blocks quickly, and I surely did," Stenson said.

Jason Day, in his first tournament as the No. 1 player in the world, stayed with Stenson until one shot. Day birdied his opening three holes, but his drive on the par-4 fifth hole sailed through the trees on the



**Rory McIlroy hits from the second tee during first round play in the Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Club Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015, in Atlanta.**

**Associated Press**

right, over the fence and out-of-bounds. He made triple bogey and never really got back on track. He shot a 69 and was six behind.

"I wish I could say that I was a machine and I can hit it straight down the gut every single time, 315 yards," Day said. "But unfortunately, as humans we're going to make errors. ... To make triple was pretty disappointing, but it's early on in the tournament, so I can't dwell on that."

Rory McIlroy started slowly, finished the front nine with three straight birdies and had a 66 to join British Open champion Zach Johnson. Jordan Spieth took the

stress out of his game and rarely was out of position. He just didn't hit it close enough for birdie chances, made three of them and shot a 68 to join a large group that included Brooks Koepka and Brandt Snedeker.

For the longest time, Stenson looked uncatchable. The trouble at East Lake is the Bermuda rough, which is why the powerful Swede leans so heavily on his 3-wood off the tee. He kept it in play, hit iron shots as crisp as ever and made plenty of putts. It was an ideal combination for scoring, until the final hour. His round stalled with a 4-iron that missed the

green on the par-5 15th, and his bunker shot came out hot and left him 20 feet away. He made par, saved par from a tough lie in the rough at the 16th and missed a 6-foot par putt on the 17th.

"I can't really play the front nine any better — very similar to what I did in 2013 when I started with a good score and shot 5 under on the front," Stenson said. "So hopefully, the rest of the week can be as successful as it was then."

Stenson is No. 4 in the FedEx Cup and has been a big topic of conversation this week. He could finish as low as third and still win the \$10 million bonus without

having won a tournament all year. But the Swede looked at it from a simpler form of math. As one of the top five seeds, he only has to win the Tour Championship to take home golf's biggest payoff, and that's all he was thinking about.

"I'll be happy on Sunday if I were to finish second and win the FedEx Cup," he said. "I'll be smiling more if I got two trophies, but I'll deal with one, as well. But at this point, I'm here to try and win this Tour Championship for the second time, and it would be great to pull that off. Still a long ways to go. We're only one round down and as we know, a lot of things can happen in 54 holes."

It was a big turnaround for Casey, who had to pull out of the Deutsche Bank Championship three weeks ago with a sore back. He treated it, worked on his posture and felt as good as new at East Lake.

"It allows me to drive the ball well around here and that was really the key to getting around," Casey said.

Sixteen players in the 28-man field broke par in easy scoring conditions, with cloud cover and some drizzle late in the day. The biggest buzz was for Day and Spieth, in the same group for the eighth time since the final round of the PGA Championship.

Day's triple bogey erased those three early birdies and he made only two birdies over his final 13 holes, including a two-putt on the par-5 15th hole. □



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## NFL London

Continued from Page 17

"The last thing we would ever want to do is to put a franchise in a place where the logistics, the travel, the sourcing of players, the infrastructure for supporting teams through a season doesn't exist."

The games at Wembley have been sellouts and the NFL has built up a solid fan base in the U.K., where soccer, rugby and cricket are still the most popular sports. London Mayor Boris Johnson is among those pushing for a full-time team in the capital.

"We feel very comfortable from a fan perspective, from a sponsor and a stadium perspective now, that we have all of the right things in place," Waller said. "The one thing that we've got to do more work on is how would it work from a team operational standpoint?"

For the first time, the NFL is holding games on back-

to-back weekends in London this season — the Jaguars against the Buffalo

Bills on Oct. 25, followed by the Kansas City Chiefs against the Detroit Lions

on Nov. 1. Wembley is also hosting its first division rivalry game, the AFC East

contest between the Dolphins and Jets. "We need to make sure that the concept, actually when you bring it into practice, the teams can still be competitive," Waller said. "There's no real way to prove that out other than testing it. .... Now we've got to be able to prove that and ensure to owners that we feel a team there could be competitive."

Asked whether the NFL might add a fourth contest in London in the future, Waller said the league is exploring expanding to "other markets," singling out Mexico and Germany as possible sites for games. Waller said the NFL would also explore the idea of holding eight games overseas, not necessarily all in London.

"We will look at that as an alternative to potentially putting a franchise there," he said. "It definitely is an idea that has merit. It clearly is one that we haven't really started to focus on. So there's a lot of work to be done." □



In this Sept. 20, 2015, photo, Washington Redskins quarterback Kirk Cousins (8) points towards the fans as he walks off the field after running back Matt Jones' touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game against the St. Louis Rams in Landover, Md.

Associated Press



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## AL Capsules

# Hopes for East crown take a hit as Yankees lose 4-0 to Jays

**The Associated Press**

**TORONTO (AP)** — Russell Martin hit a three-run home run, Marcus Stroman pitched seven strong innings to win his third straight start and the Blue Jays beat the Yankees, extending their AL East lead to 3 1/2 games.

Martin, who used to play for the Yankees, connected off Andrew Bailey in the seventh. Martin matched his career high for homers with 21 as Toronto took two of three from New York in a showdown between the division's top teams.

Stroman (3-0) allowed five hits, walked one and struck out five in his third start since returning from a torn knee ligament suffered in spring training. The outing lowered his ERA to 1.89.

Brett Cecil worked the eighth and Roberto Osuna finished.

Starting in place of Masahiro Tanaka (right hamstring), New York right-hander Ivan Nova (6-9) took the mound for the first time since allowing six runs in 1 2-3 innings of a Sept. 12 loss to Toronto. **TWINS 4, INDIANS 2**

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Phil Hughes pitched five scoreless innings in his return to the rotation, and the Twins



**Toronto Blue Jays' Russell Martin (55) celebrates with Marcus Stroman, right, after hitting a three-run home run against the New York Yankees during the seventh inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2015, in Toronto.**

**Associated Press**

had rare success against Corey Kluber in a victory over the Indians to move within a game of the second AL wild-card spot. Minnesota trails Houston by a game after the Astros

lost to the Angels earlier Wednesday. Hughes (11-9) allowed four hits and struck out four. Brian Dozier homered and Trevor Plouffe had two doubles, a single and an

RBI for the Twins (78-73).

Kluber (8-15) gave up four runs on five hits and struck out six in 3 2-3 innings for the Indians. Cleveland played without star outfielder Michael Brantley, who injured his shoulder while diving for a ball on Tuesday night.

Carlos Santana hit a two-run homer in the ninth for the Indians (74-76), who now trail the Astros by 5 1/2 games with 12 left to play.

**ANGELS 6, ASTROS 5**

**HOUSTON (AP)** — David Freese hit a go-ahead two-run double in a three-run eighth inning to help the Angels rally for a win over the Astros to close in on the second AL wild-card spot. In the eighth, Mike Trout hit a leadoff double off Will Harris (5-5) before David Murphy drew a walk with one out and Harris was replaced by Pat Neshek.

Freese's double sailed just beyond left fielder Colby Rasmus on the warning track and made it 5-4. Carlos Perez's RBI single made it 6-4 and chased Neshek. Trevor Gott (3-2) induced the last two outs of the seventh for the win and Huston Street allowed one run in the ninth before retiring Jed Lowrie for his 40th save.

**ROYALS 4, MARINERS 3, 10 innings**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)** — Lorenzo Cain singled home pinch-runner Paulo Orlando in the 10th inning, and the Royals rallied past the Mariners to close in on their first division title in 30 years. The victory reduced the Royals' magic number to two for clinching the AL

Central crown. They can lock it up Thursday night with another victory over Seattle and a Minnesota loss to Cleveland.

The defending AL champions have not won a division since taking the AL West in 1985 and going on to win the World Series.

Wade Davis (8-1) worked a spotless 10th to pick up the victory. Rollins (0-2) absorbed the loss.

**TIGERS 7, WHITE SOX 4**

**DETROIT (AP)** — Justin Verlander hit 99 mph in evading a bases-loaded jam during his final inning, and Victor Martinez hit his 200th career home run as the Tigers beat the White Sox.

Verlander (4-8) threw five straight fastballs 98-99 mph in striking out Geovany Soto to end the seventh inning and exited with a four-run lead. He allowed three runs on five hits with eight strikeouts.

Melky Cabrera's 100th career home run, a two-run shot in the fourth, accounted for the first two White Sox runs off Verlander.

The Tigers scored six runs off Frankie Montas (0-1) in his first career start. They scored twice in the first on Martinez's 11th home run, then added four more runs in the third — two of them scoring on J.D. Martinez's bases-loaded ground-rule double that gave him 98 RBIs for the season.

**ORIOLES 4, NATIONALS 3**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Manny Machado hit a two-run homer off Max Scherzer with two outs in the seventh inning and the Orioles rallied past the Nationals. □

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## NL Capsules

# Pirates clinch playoff berth with 13-7 win over Rockies

The Associated Press

**DENVER (AP)** — Neil Walker had a career-high six RBIs, including a three-run homer, and the Pittsburgh Pirates clinched their third straight playoff berth by beating the Colorado Rockies 13-7 on Wednesday night.

The Pirates secured at least an NL wild card as they chase first-place St. Louis in the NL Central. They trail by four games with a home series coming up against the Cardinals.

Walker provided the bulk of the offense with a bloop, two-run single in the first and a towering three-run homer in the third off fill-in starter Christian Bergman (3-1). Walker ended his night with a run-scoring single as part of a six-run ninth to break open a tight game.

### BRAVES 6, METS 3

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Freddie Freeman broke a ninth-inning tie with a three-run homer after driving in two as a pinch hitter in the seventh, and the Braves stunned the Mets in the finale of New York's rough homestand.

David Wright had a tying, two-out single off Brandon Cuniff in the seventh after the Braves scored three times in the top half to take a 3-2 lead. But closer Jeurys Familia failed in the ninth as the NL East leaders finished 3-6 on their penultimate set at Citi Field.

New York stayed 6 1/2 games in front of second-place Washington, whose 4-3 loss to Baltimore trimmed the Mets' magic number to five for clinching the division title.

### MARLINS 4, PHILLIES 3, 11 innings

**MIAMI (AP)** — Dee Gordon's RBI double with two outs in the bottom of the 11th inning lifted the Miami Marlins to a victory over the Phillies.

Justin Bour hit his 19th home run for the Marlins, who snapped a four-game losing streak.

Miguel Rojas singled and Ichiro Suzuki walked with two outs in the 11th before Gordon doubled to deep right-center field off Jerome Williams (4-12).

Brian Ellington (2-1) earned the win by pitching a scoreless inning.

Both teams scored a run in the 10th as Freddy Galvis hit an RBI single for the Phillies and Suzuki scored for the Marlins on a throwing error by catcher Carlos Ruiz.

The Marlins had a runner in scoring position after Ruiz's error with no outs, but were unable to drive in the winning run in three straight at-bats.

### ORIOLES 4, NATIONALS 3

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Manny Machado hit a two-run homer off Max Scherzer with two outs in the seventh inning and the Orioles rallied past the Nationals. Steve Pearce had a two-run homer and a double for the Orioles, who moved within four games of the final AL wild card spot.

Washington remains 6 1-2 games behind NL-East leading New York, which lost to Atlanta.

J.J. Hardy led off the seventh with a double against Scherzer (12-12), but after Clint Robinson robbed Gerardo Parra with a diving stop at first, the Washington starter had a chance to get out of it.

Machado worked the count to 2-2 before lining Scherzer's season-high 122nd and final pitch into the seats in left center for his 30th homer.

Baltimore starter Chris Tillman (10-11) allowed three runs over six innings for his first win since Aug. 17.

Darren O'Day pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

### BREWERS 4, CUBS 1

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Zach Davies allowed two hits over six innings and Martin Maldonado drove in two runs to lead Milwaukee to a victory over Chicago, snapping the Brewers' nine-game losing streak to

the Cubs.

Jorge Soler homered for the Cubs, who lost for the second time in nine games and finished with three hits total.

Davies (2-2) allowed two singles in the second inning, walked one and struck out four.

Francisco Rodriguez pitched the ninth and picked up his 35th save in 37 opportunities.

Luis Sardinas gave the Brewers a 1-0 lead with an RBI single just out of the reach of a diving Kris Bryant at third base.

### CARDINALS 10, REDS 2

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — Matt Carpenter hit a pair of two-run homers, Lance Lynn pitched six scoreless innings and the Cardinals routed the Reds.

The win was the fourth straight for the NL Central leaders and it improved their major league-best record to 96-56. Randal Grichuk and Peter Bourjos also homered as the Cardinals hit four for the first time this season.

Matt Holliday returned to the St. Louis lineup for the first time since July 29 and contributed an RBI double. Both of Carpenter's homers came off Brandon Finnegan (4-1), who allowed six runs in five innings.

**PADRES 5, GIANTS 4**  
**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — Jedd Gyorko hit an RBI single to right-center with two outs in the ninth inning to give the Padres a wild win over the Giants, who dropped seven games behind first-place Los Angeles in the NL West with 11 to go.

The Dodgers beat Arizona 4-1. The Giants remained 9 1/2 games behind the Chicago Cubs for the second wild card.

The Padres won for just the fourth time in 12 games. San Diego started the winning rally against George Kontos (4-3) with a one-out double by Matt Kemp and an intentional walk to Justin Upton. □



Pittsburgh Pirates' Neil Walker hits a two RBI single against the Colorado Rockies during the first inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2015, in Denver.

Associated Press

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## Elite road cycling technology may benefit amateur consumers

**DAVE SKRETTA**  
AP Sports Writer

**RICHMOND, Va. (AP)** — In a sleek, black skinsuit and aerodynamic helmet, Linda Villumsen looked a bit like a superhero as she rode her carbon-fiber time trial bike to victory at the world championships this week. The difference separating the New Zealand rider from silver medalist Anna van der Breggen? Just 2.54 seconds over a 30-kilometer course that took riders more than 40 minutes to complete. Few sports are as reliant on technology as cycling, where fractions of a second often add up to victory or defeat. Riders are constantly seeking the best equipment, and companies respond by spending millions to develop the lightest materials, the most aerodynamic frames, and the strongest, sleekest and fastest ways to get elite riders to the finish line.

"The bikes you're seeing at the world championships are not exactly the first bike you had riding down the street as a kid," said Eric Bjorling of bike manufacturer Trek. "These are highly developed, highly engi-



Linda Melanie Villumsen, of New Zealand, rounds a curve during the women's elite time trials at the UCI Road World Championships cycling races in Richmond, Va., Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2015. Villumsen won the event.

neered, often with millions poured into research and development."

It isn't just advancements in bikes, either. Nutrition companies are constantly developing supplements and drinks to fuel riders. Apparel manufacturers are dreaming up new fabrics that are more comfortable and efficient. Helmet companies

are designing safer products to protect cyclists falling at high speeds.

Eventually, all that technology trickles down to the consumer, who may not be able to afford a \$12,000 bike of an elite athlete, but may purchase a less expensive version.

According to the National Bike Dealers Association,

more than \$6 billion was spent in the U.S. on bikes, parts and accessories in 2014. Another \$1.3 billion was spent on used bikes, bringing the total size of the bike business to more than \$7 billion — not including private sales.

Those bikes were sold to the approximately 35 million Americans ages 7 and

older who rode at least six times last year, according to the National Sporting Goods Association. That number doesn't include children on smaller bicycles, which means the true number of riders is greater. Events such as the world championships this week in Virginia, or the Tour de France in July, are essentially a preview of the versions those recreational riders may one day purchase. "It's a great pastime to remain fit and keep healthy. Great means of transport," said Brian Cookson, the president of the UCI, the sport's global governing body. "Cycling is not just about the elite level. It's something that everyone can enjoy and benefit."

However, advancements in technology happen at the elite level.

Take the latest version of Trek's ultralight road bike, the Emonda. More than 100 people were involved in its design, from mechanical engineers to material scientists. Its development took more than two years, from prototypes to wind-tunnel testing to fine-tuning in labs. □

Associated Press



Seattle Sounders midfielder Lamar Neagle, left, tries to get on the end of a cross in front of Vancouver Whitecaps defender Tim Parker during the first half of a CONCACAF Champions League soccer match, Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2015, in Seattle.

Associated Press

**MARK MOSCHETTI**  
Associated Press

**SEATTLE (AP)** — Lamar Neagle has had a tough time finding the goal in Major League Soccer games this season. It has been much easier for him in CONCACAF Champions League play.

Neagle scored two goals and the Seattle Sounders beat the Vancouver Whitecaps 3-0 on Wednesday night and advanced to the CCL quarterfinals.

Seattle completed Group F play at 2-1-1 and seven points. Vancouver (1-1-1, 4 points) still can tie on points

## Sounders reach CONCACAF Champions League quarterfinals

by beating Olimpia in Honduras on Oct. 22, but the Sounders own the tiebreaker on goal differential, 4-1. The teams drew 1-1 in Vancouver on Aug. 5.

Nelson Valdez also scored for Seattle.

Neagle had nine MLS goals in 2014, but has just four in 29 games this season. His brace on Tuesday gave him three goals in four Champions League group-play games.

"That first goal (tonight) was unbelievable," Neagle said. "It was a great ball right in front of me, I was able to get in front of the defender a little bit, and I was able to get a small touch on it.

In the 32nd minute, Chad Barrett flicked the ball into the left side of the 6-yard

box. Neagle ran onto it and one-timed a shot into the back right corner past goalkeeper Paolo Tornaghi. Valdez scored in the 39th. Marco Pappa curled a free kick from the far right side into the box. Barrett and Valdez both went up for the ball, Valdez winning it and sending it off the back of his head into the right corner.

Neagle made it 3-0 just 1:04 after halftime when he received a through ball from Barrett, took it into the box and beat Tornaghi from 15 yards straight in front.

"After having nine last year and not having nine this year yet, it's nice to have two in a game especially in a game like this one," Neagle said.

Neagle was one of sev-

en players in coach Sigi Schmid's starting lineup who did not play in last Saturday's 3-0 MLS victory at Vancouver.

"It helps him because has played a lot of minutes (1,956). We've sort of put the mantle of all the injuries we've had," Schmid said. "His legs were a little fresh, and also, your mentality becomes a little fresher."

"It's nice to have a lot more players healthy, so our options and choices were a lot better," he added. "We played seven fresh guys tonight out of 11, and those guys acquitted themselves well.

Goalkeeper Stefan Frei needed to make just two saves to notch the shutout. The Whitecaps got just six shots all night. □





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## Robot revolution sweeps China's factory floors

KELVIN CHAN

AP Business Writer

**SHENZHEN, China (AP)** — In China's factories, the robots are rising.

For decades, manufacturers employed waves of young migrant workers from China's countryside to work at countless factories in coastal provinces, churning out cheap toys, clothing and electronics that helped power the country's economic ascent.

Now, factories are rapidly replacing those workers with automation, a pivot that's encouraged by rising wages and new official directives aimed at helping the country move away from low-cost manufacturing as the supply of young, pliant workers shrinks.

It's part of a broader overhaul of the economy as China seeks to vault into the ranks of wealthy nations. But it comes as the country's growth slows amid tepid global demand that's adding pressure on tens of thousands of manufacturers.

With costs rising and profits shrinking, Chinese manufacturers "will all need to face the fact that only by successfully transitioning from the current labor-oriented mode to more automated manufacturing will they be able to survive in the next few years," said Jan Zhang, an automation expert at IHS Technology in Shanghai.

Shenzhen Rapoo Technology Co. is among the companies at ground zero of this transformation. At its factory in the southern Chinese industrial boomtown of Shenzhen, orange robot arms work alongside human operators assembling computer mice and keyboards.



In this June 26, 2015 photo, workers assemble parts next to robot arms at an auto parts manufacture factory in Dafeng city in east China's Jiangsu province.

Associated Press

"What we are doing here is a revolution" in Chinese manufacturing, said Pbool Deng, Rapoo's deputy general manager.

The company began its push into automation five years ago. Rapoo installed 80 robots made by Sweden's ABB Ltd. to assemble mice, keyboards and their sub-components. The robots allowed the company to save \$1.6 million each year and trim its workforce to less than 1,000 from a peak of more than 3,000 in 2010.

Such upgrading underscores the grand plans China's communist leaders have for industrial robotics. President Xi Jinping called in a speech last year for a "robot revolution" in a nod to automation's vital role in raising productivity.

Authorities have announced measures such as subsidies and tax incentives over the past three years to encourage industrial auto-

mation as well as development of a homegrown robotics industry.

Some provinces have set up their own "Man for Machine" programs aimed at replacing workers with robots.

Guangdong, a manufacturing heartland in southern China, said in March it would invest 943 billion yuan (\$148 billion) to encourage nearly 2,000 large manufacturers to buy robots, the official Xinhua news agency reported. Guangzhou, the provincial capital, aims to have 80 percent of manufacturing automated by 2020.

A relentless surge in wages is adding impetus to the automation revolution. China relied on a seemingly endless supply of cheap labor for decades to power its economic expansion. That equation is changing as the country's working age population stops growing and more Chinese gradu-

ate from university, resulting in a dwindling supply of unskilled workers, annual double-digit percentage increases in the minimum wage and rising labor unrest.

Deng said Rapoo's wage bill rising 15-20 percent a year was one big factor driving its use of robots.

"Frontline workers, their turnover rate is really high. More and people are unwilling to do repetitive jobs. So these two issues put the manufacturing industry in China under huge pressure," he said.

China's auto industry was the trailblazer for automation, but other industries are rapidly adopting the technology as robots become smaller, cheaper and easier to use. It now only takes on average 1.3 years for an industrial robot in China to pay back its investment, down from 11.8 years in 2008, according to Goldman Sachs.

Companies such as electronics maker TCL Corp. are using robots to produce higher-value goods. At one factory in Shenzhen, TCL uses 978 machines to produce flat screen TV panels. At another TCL plant in Hebei, near Shanghai, steel refrigerator frames are bent into shape before being plucked by a blue Yasakawa robot arm that stacks them in neat rows for further assembly.

Fridges and big washing machines have heavy internal components, so "if you use automated robots to make them, they also let you cut your labor intensity by a lot," said TCL Chairman Tomson Li.

China held the title of world's biggest market for industrial robots for the second straight year in 2014, with sales rising by more than half to 56,000, out of a total of 224,000 sold globally, according to the International Federation of Robotics. There's plenty more room for explosive sales growth. China has about 30 robots for every 10,000 factory workers compared with 437 in South Korea and 152 in the United States. The global average is 62. Beijing wants China's number to rise to 100 by 2020.

The switch to robots has raised fears that it will contribute to slowing job growth though there are few signs that's happening yet.

Deng said Rapoo hasn't had to resort to layoffs. Rather, the company is just not replacing workers who quit. "It's not simply replacing the operation of workers by robot. We do more than that. We are making a robot platform" in which humans and machines work together to make production more flexible, he said. □



# Wall Street drops on global growth worries

**STEVE ROTHWELL**  
**AP Markets Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — More evidence that global economic growth is slowing pushed the U.S. stock market down for a third straight day on Thursday. The market fell sharply at the open, pushing stocks close to their lowest levels of the month, before rebounding during afternoon trading to close with only slight losses.

Caterpillar, a bellwether for industrial companies, fell sharply after cutting its sales outlook for this year and announcing that it would eliminate as many as 10,000 jobs to cut costs. Also, the government reported that orders for long-lasting U.S. manufactured goods dropped in August. A key category that tracks business investment plans was especially weak. "We're looking for that good news and we're not getting any," said John Toohey, vice president of equity investments at USAA. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 6.52 points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,932.24. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 78.57 points, or 0.5 percent, to 16,201.32. The Nasdaq composite fell 18.27 points, or 0.4 percent, to 4,734.48.

The market has been in a funk for the past month as investors worry that slowing growth overseas, particularly in China, will hurt U.S. companies.

A decision by the Federal Reserve to hold its benchmark interest rate close to zero this month also made investors uneasy.

Investors will closely follow a speech on inflation and monetary policy later Thursday by U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen. The Fed has rate-setting meetings in October and December and investors are looking for clues on the possible timing of the Fed's first interest-rate hike in nearly a decade.

Policymakers held the Fed's benchmark interest rate close to zero despite an improving job market and a steady economy.

"That just made the market think, 'Hey, does this mean we're never going to have a rate increase?'"

The S&P 500 has fallen 9.2 percent since setting a record close of 2,130.82 in May and is on track for its second straight month of losses.

On Thursday, Caterpillar was the biggest decliner in the S&P 500.

The company slumped after cutting its 2015 revenue forecast by \$1 billion to about \$48 billion. Cater-

prices hurts mining companies. The stock dropped \$4.40, or 6.3 percent, to \$65.80.

European markets also fell. Germany's DAX dropped 1.9 percent, Britain's FTSE 100 declined 1.2 percent and France's CAC 40 lost 1.9 percent.

Automakers in Europe are still suffering in the wake of Volkswagen's emissions scandal. While VW's stock closed flat on the day, fellow German carmaker BMW fell 5.2 percent af-



**Specialist Meric Greenbaum works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. More evidence that global economic growth is slowing pushed the U.S. stock market down for a third straight day on Thursday.**

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Yellen told reporters after the meeting that worries about China and emerging markets were a factor in their decision.

"She, in essence, moved the goal posts," said Quincy Krosby, a market strategist for Prudential Financial.

pillar also said sales would fall another 5 percent next year. The company said it may eliminate as many as 10,000 jobs between now and 2018. The maker of mining and construction equipment is suffering as a global slump in commodity

ter a report said one of its models had failed a test in Europe. Fiat Chrysler fell 7.5 percent.

In commodities trading, benchmark U.S. crude rose 43 cents to \$44.91 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. □

## \$32.75M mortgage discrimination settlement with bank

**JOSH BOAK**  
**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Mortgage discrimination against black and Hispanic communities has led to a proposed \$32.75 million settlement between Hudson City Savings Bank and the federal government.

The New Jersey-based lender located branches, chose mortgage brokers and marketed loans that discouraged borrowers

in predominantly minority communities, said the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and Justice Department Thursday.

Those specific practices show that Hudson City violated federal law by structuring its business to avoid providing credit based on race and national origin, said U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman of the District of New Jersey.

Pending court approval,

Hudson City would need to pay \$25 million for a loan subsidy program to increase access to mortgages in black and Hispanic neighborhoods. It would also owe \$2.25 million for community programs and outreach and \$5.5 million in penalties.

The settlement and other government investigations into the lending policies of other banks indicates that redlining — a form of segre-

gation dating back to the 1930s that deprives minority homebuyers — remains a problem decades after the passage of the 1968 Fair Housing Act.

Hudson City has \$35.4 billion in assets and 135 branches in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. The government announced the deal as M&T Bank is attempting to finalize its acquisition of Hudson City. □

## Berlin: VW's with suspect software are in Europe too

**GEIR MOULSON**  
**Associated Press**

**BERLIN (AP)** — The software at the center of Volkswagen's emissions scandal in the U.S. was built into the automaker's cars in Europe as well, Germany said Thursday, though it isn't yet clear if it helped cheat tests as it did in the U.S.

A day after longtime CEO Martin Winterkorn resigned over the scandal, a member of Volkswagen's supervisory board said he expects more executives to step down. The company's supervisory board meets Friday and could announce new resignations then as well as a new CEO.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency disclosed Friday that stealth software makes VW's 2009-2015 model cars powered by 2.0-liter diesel engines run cleaner during emissions tests than in actual driving. The EPA accused VW of installing the so-called "defeat device" in 482,000 cars sold in the United States. VW later acknowledged that similar software exists in 11 million diesel cars worldwide and set aside 6.5 billion euros (\$7.2 billion) to cover the costs of the scandal.

The company has told officials that the vehicles in question included VW cars with 1.6-liter and 2-liter diesel engines in Europe, German Transport Minister Alexander Dobrindt said Thursday.

"We don't yet have figures for how many of these 11 million cars that are apparently affected are in Europe," Dobrindt said. "That will be cleared up in the next few days."

Authorities will continue working with Volkswagen to determine what cars exactly are involved.

It isn't yet clear to what extent the scandal affects other brands in the Volkswagen Group, which has 12 brands in all — including Seat, Audi, Skoda and Porsche. □



# Applications for US jobless aid tick up to still-low 267,000

**C. S. RUGABER**

**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits rose slightly last week yet remained at a low level consistent with solid job growth. Weekly applications for jobless aid rose 3,000 to a seasonally adjusted 267,000, the Labor Department said Thursday. The four-week average, a less volatile figure, declined to 271,750.

Applications are a proxy for layoffs, and the low readings suggest Americans are enjoying solid job security. Steady economic growth has encouraged employers to hold onto the workers they already have and is spurring more hiring. The four-week average fell to a 15-year low last month. The steady stream of low readings also indicates that employers have not been spooked by signs of slowing growth in China or recent

volatility in the stock market.

"Overall employment growth remains more than strong enough to keep the unemployment rate declining," Jim O'Sullivan, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, said in a note to clients. "Domestic strength is offsetting foreign weakness."

The number of people receiving benefits was essentially unchanged at 2.24 million.

Employers have added an average of 221,000 jobs a month in the past three months, a solid pace and above the average of 189,000 in the preceding three months. The unemployment rate has fallen to 5.1 percent, a seven-year low.

The job market's recovery is a key reason Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen has indicated that the Fed may raise short-term interest rates by the end of

this year. The Fed decided against raising rates at its meeting last week, citing too-low inflation and economic turmoil overseas. The interest rate the Fed controls has been pegged near zero for seven years.

"The pace of job gains has been solid, the unemployment rate has declined, and overall labor market conditions have continued to improve," Yellen said at a press conference last week. □

# Caterpillar says it could cut 10,000 jobs to reduce costs



Caterpillar equipment is seen available at the Ziegler CAT dealer, in Altoona, Iowa. Caterpillar on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015 said it is planning another round of job cuts that could exceed 10,000 people through 2018, as the construction and mining equipment maker adjusts to downturns in key markets that it serves.

(AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

**TOM MURPHY**

**AP Business Writer**

Caterpillar is planning another round of job cuts that could exceed 10,000 people through 2018, as the construction and mining

equipment maker adjusts to downturns in key markets.

That could amount to more than 8 percent of the 126,800 employees it had globally as of June.

The Peoria, Illinois, company said Thursday that it will cut as many as 5,000 people mostly by the end of this year from its salaried and management workforce. It then could cut

thousands more, raising the total above 10,000, as it figures out which factories and manufacturing sites to close through 2018.

Caterpillar also said Thursday that it was dropping its 2015 revenue outlook by \$1 billion, and its profit forecast will take a hit as well. Caterpillar makes diesel and natural gas engines, industrial gas turbines and diesel-electric locomotives, aside from construction and mining equipment. Several sectors that it serves have been hit by problems beyond the company's control.

Low oil prices have hurt the company's Energy & Transportation business, which makes products used in oil and gas production. Caterpillar said its construction equipment sales have fallen far below peak levels in North America, Latin America, Europe and the Middle East. Mining equipment sales have stayed well below a level considered normal for custom-

ers replacing or upgrading their equipment.

The company has been hurt, in particular, by a slowdown in China's construction boom. That contributed to a 21 percent drop in Caterpillar's Asia-Pacific region sales during the second quarter.

Caterpillar has been cutting costs to counter those problems.

But the company also had kept a more positive outlook than its competitors about its end markets for much of this year, said Kwame Webb, an analyst who covers Caterpillar for Morningstar.

"I'm sort of surprised it took them so long to come to this point," he said after the cuts were announced.

Caterpillar executives said Thursday in a statement that industries like mining, oil and gas and construction are the right businesses to be in for the long term, even with a history that includes prolonged downturns. □

# Orders for US durable goods down 2 percent in August

**M. CRUTSINGER**

**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Orders for long-lasting U.S. manufactured goods dropped in August with weakness in a key category that tracks business investment plans.

Orders for durable goods fell 2 percent last month in contrast to July when orders had risen by 1.9 percent, the Commerce Department reported Thursday. A

key category that serves as a proxy for business investment edged down 0.2 percent last month after gains of 2.1 percent in July and 1.5 percent in June.

The underlying demand for manufactured goods has been weaker this year as a strong dollar and China's economic slowdown have dragged down demand for American exports and big declines in oil prices have resulted in cutbacks

in investment by energy companies. Still, economists said the 2 percent August decline overstated the weakness in manufacturing because much of the drag last month came from a huge 19.3 percent fall in orders for defense equipment, an extremely volatile category. Excluding defense, orders would have dropped a smaller 1 percent in August. Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist

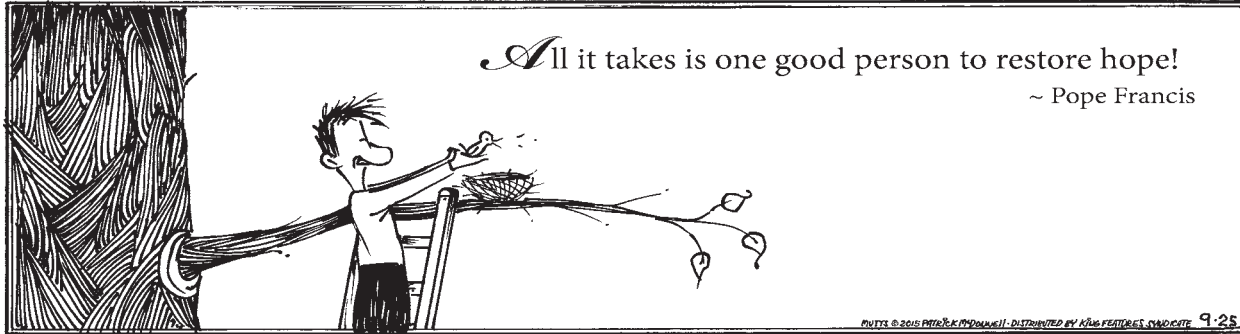
for Capital Economics, said the small 0.2 percent setback in the business investment category had been expected given the strong gains in this area in the previous two months.

"Investment in equipment appears to be recovering in the third quarter," Ashworth said in a research note. For August, demand for commercial aircraft fell for a second month, dropping 5.9 percent after an

8.7 percent decline in July. In June, this volatile category had shown a 69.9 percent increase. Orders for motor vehicles and parts fell 1.6 percent after gains in the two previous months. Orders outside of the transportation categories were flat in August after a modest 0.4 percent rise in July. Demand for machinery was up 1 percent but orders for computers fell 5.7 percent. □



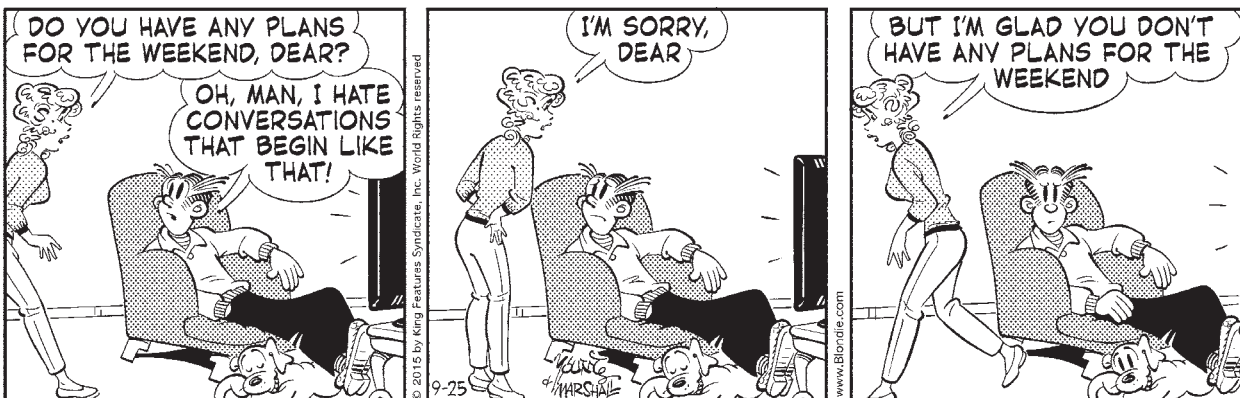
## Mutts



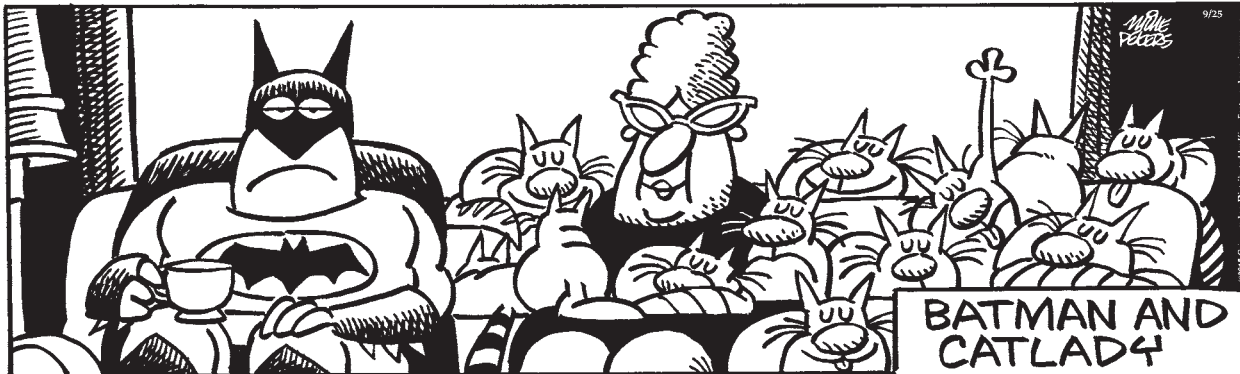
## 6 Chix



## Blondie



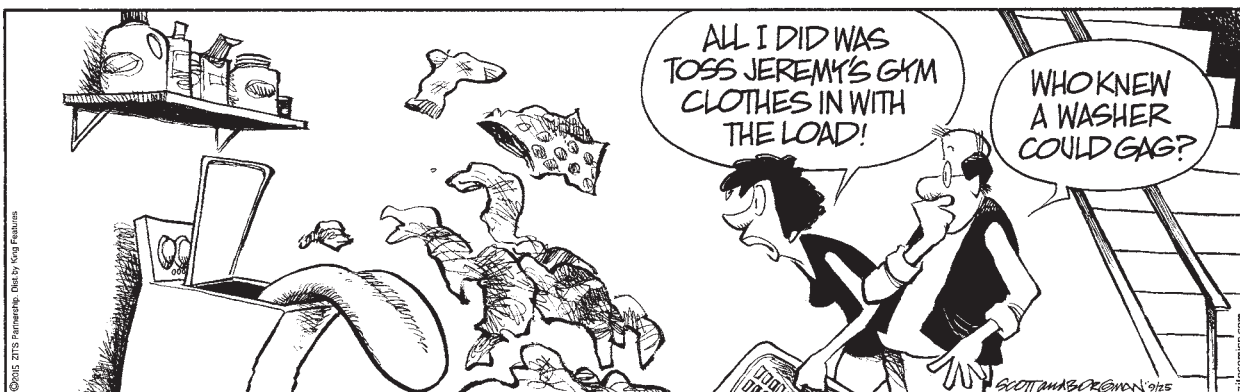
## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

4			7		5	1		2
	7			4			8	
9								
6								1
	2			3			5	
8								3
								8
	5			8			2	
1		4	6		7			9

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	1	7	8	5	3	9	6	2
5	8	9	7	6	2	4	3	1
6	3	2	9	1	4	7	5	8
9	6	8	3	2	1	5	7	4
7	2	3	4	8	5	1	9	6
1	5	4	6	7	9	8	2	3
8	4	6	2	9	7	3	1	5
2	7	1	5	3	8	6	4	9
3	9	5	1	4	6	2	8	7

## ACROSS

- 1 Make a mess of things
- 6 Remove wrinkles from
- 10 Top cards
- 14 \_\_\_ of; informed about
- 15 Regulation
- 16 Rani's husband
- 17 Happen again
- 18 \_\_\_ together; combines
- 19 Ukraine's capital
- 20 Ballpark figure
- 22 In a \_\_\_; dazed
- 24 Bank vault
- 25 Venus & Mars
- 26 Rat or mouse
- 29 "Casey at the Bat" & "How Do I Love Thee?"
- 30 Flurry
- 31 Exchanges for cash
- 33 Tropical trees
- 37 \_\_\_ and "Circumstance"
- 39 Hilarious folks
- 41 Before long
- 42 Actor Williams
- 44 Mike or Cicely
- 46 Luau dish
- 47 On the \_\_\_; likely to fail
- 49 Mojave or Gobi
- 51 Quito's nation
- 54 Cooking herb
- 55 Actor Ted \_\_\_
- 56 Womanizer
- 60 5 \_\_\_ 20 is 4
- 61 Grumpy person
- 63 Poisonous
- 64 Bedspring
- 65 "\_\_\_ comes the bride..."
- 66 Build
- 67 \_\_\_ off; begins a round of golf
- 68 Take \_\_\_; assume control
- 69 Actress Claire

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20					21			22	23			
			24				25					
26	27	28				29						
30			31		32			33	34	35	36	
37			38		39			40	41			
42			43		44			45		46		
			47		48			49	50			
51	52	53					54					
55						56				57	58	59
60					61	62			63			
64					65				66			
67					68				69			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/25/15

## Thursday's Puzzle Solved

THAT	ACTUP	EBBS
HATH	SLOPE	ROLL
ARMY	SANANTONIO	
IDO	FUSS	ADEPT
	SWAMP	IRE
CAPONE	CORDON	
ACHES	PIETY	VOW
FOES	FONDA	BETA
ERR	PRONE	SORER
	NEARER	GLOSSY
	RED	WRATH
ORATE	POEM	ASA
PALINDROME	ODOR	
EVAS	OILED	FORM
NES	AGONY	AWES

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9/25/15

## DOWN

- 1 Uncovered
- 2 Runs up a tab
- 3 Diplomacy
- 4 Umbrellas
- 5 King's decree
- 6 Drinks made with ice cream
- 7 List; paper full of chores
- 8 Canceled out
- 9 Blanketlike cloak
- 10 Spanish wife
- 11 Paddled boat
- 12 Loosen
- 13 Curved sword
- 14 Give a hoot
- 15 Plow pullers
- 16 Immoral habit
- 17 Plays a role
- 18 Gun the engine



## Scalpers turn papal tickets for profit, drawing ire

MICHAEL R. SISA  
Associated Press

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — The rosary beads cost \$175. Sounds a bit pricey, except the Craigslist ad says they come with tickets to see Pope Francis. Same with the \$10 train passes marked up to \$85 in another listing.

With the wildly popular pontiff's U.S. tour shifting to New York on Thursday night and Philadelphia for the weekend, ticket scalpers are getting creative to make sure their listings don't get deleted or lost among dozens of ticket offers pouring in daily.

The same tickets that papal visit organizers doled out free of charge through parishes and online giveaways weeks ago are available on the online gray market with hefty price tags.

Want a chance to see Pope Francis roll through New York's Central Park on Friday? That'll be \$100. Or maybe you want to see him on stage alongside Mark Wahlberg, Aretha Franklin and Sister Sledge. Tickets to the Festival of Families in Philadelphia on Saturday are going for as low as \$25.

On Craigslist, one listing for tickets to see the pope in Central Park appeared below one for pop star Ariana Grande's concert the next night in Brooklyn.

Church and civic leaders denounced the sales and asked websites to remove the listings. The auction site eBay has complied, saying



People wave as Pope Francis appears on the Speaker's Balcony on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015. The pope spoke outside following his address to a joint session of Congress.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

the sales violated its terms of service. Posts have continued to appear on Craigslist. The website did not respond to a message Wednesday.

"It's disgusting that anyone would take a free ticket for someone to see His Holiness and decide to re-sell it," New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said. "No one should buy such a ticket. It's just absolutely inconsis-

tent with everything that this pope stands for." Organizers made 80,000 tickets available to the public for the Central Park procession and 30,000 for the pope's three outdoor events in Philadelphia - 10,000 each for the festival, Mass and a speech on immigration and religious freedom at Independence Hall. □

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## Study: Global warming, evolution are clipping bees' tongues

**SETH BORENSTEIN**  
AP Science Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** —

Global warming and evolution are reshaping the bodies of some American bumblebees, a new study finds.

The tongues of two Rocky Mountains species of bumblebees are about one-quarter shorter than they were 40 years ago, evolving that way because climate change altered the buffet of wildflowers they normally feed from, according to a study published Thursday in the journal *Science*.

In one of these species, the tongue had been half the size of the bee's body — the equivalent of a human tongue going down to the waist. But because the flowers where the long tongue is required have dwindled, the bees didn't need that much tongue. Keeping long tongues requires bees use more energy, so the bees evolved a shorter tongue that allows them to sample a wider variety of flowers, said study lead author Nicole Miller-Struttman at the State University of New York, Old Westbury.

While biologists have tracked how global warming has altered the developmental, migration, timing and other behavior in plants and animals, what makes this study unusual is the physical changes in the bees, said study co-author Candace Galen at the University of Missouri.

"It speaks to the magnitude of the change of the climate that it's affecting the evolution of the organisms," Galen said. "It's a beautiful demonstration of adaptive evolution."

Sydney Cameron at the University of Illinois wasn't part of the study, but



This photo provided by the magazine *Science* shows a Queen bumble bee collecting nectar from flowers of the alpine wildflower. Associated Press

praised it as well conducted and significant for the ecosystem of mountain flowers.

The team of biologists studied the bees on three isolated mountaintops in the Rockies, where they had been the most dominant species around. Not so much anymore, Miller-Struttman said. The longer tongued of the two bees, the golden belted bumble-

bee, shrank from 50 percent of all the bees to 20 percent, she said.

Because these were so isolated and so high — more than 10,000 feet (3,000 meters) — pesticides and pathogens, often blamed for bee declines, weren't a problem, the scientists said. Something else had to be an issue. They compared the bees to those of 40 years ago or more and

found the tongues dramatically shorter.

They also found that the temperature in the area had warmed by about 3.6 degrees since the 1960s and the type and amount of flowers had changed.

At first, the scientists figured the flowers were evolving with the bees, as often happens over long time periods in nature, but Miller-Struttman said that's not

the case.

"The silver lining is that (the bees) are evolving very quickly," Miller-Struttman said. "The story may not be as rosy for the flowers."

Galen worries that without long-tongued bees, some flowers will falter. Also, she said shorter tongue bees often "cheat" and bite a hole in the flower's side, which doesn't help the plant spread its seeds. □



## Documentary featuring Obama prison visit debuts in Oklahoma

TIM TALLEY

Associated Press

**EL RENO, Okla. (AP)** — Federal inmates at an Oklahoma prison said Wednesday they are hoping a documentary featuring President Barack Obama's July visit to the facility and in-depth interviews with six of the prisoners will influence policymakers to re-examine harsh sentences for nonviolent drug offenders. About 50 inmates gathered inside the chapel of the Federal Correctional Institute at El Reno to watch the premiere of "Fixing the System," a Vice on HBO special report. Non-violent drug offenders who talked to Obama during his visit said the one-hour documentary, which begins airing Sunday on HBO, will make people more aware of the impact that lengthy sentences have on inmates' families and communities.

"It takes people away from their families for years and the crime doesn't fit," said Tyrone Ramsey, 39, a first-time offender who has served five years of a 15-year sentence for conspiracy with intent to distribute heroin.

The documentary shows interviews with relatives



In this July 16, 2015, file photo, President Barack Obama pauses as he speaks at the El Reno Federal Correctional Institution in El Reno, Okla. Associated Press

of Ramsey and images of his children playing at the family's Kansas City, Kansas, home — sights and sounds that Ramsey said made him realize how much he misses the people who were part of his life before prison.

"When I saw it, it was very emotional, especially when I saw my children," Ramsey said. "It really hit me. It really sparked some thoughts in my mind like: 'Man, I really messed up in some ways.'"

Another inmate who appears in the film, Jesus Chavez, said he hopes those who see the film "realize we're all human, we all make mistakes."

"One mistake shouldn't really dictate the rest of our lives," said the 24-year-old from El Paso, Texas, who was sentenced to more than five years in prison for conspiracy to distribute Ecstasy. "This country is about second chances, and the amount of sentence they are giving us ... has a lot of

impact on what we could do when we get out."

Arnell Stewart, 27, of Denver, said the producers "hit a home run" by focusing on his and other "compelling stories that go on behind these walls." But Stewart, who has served three years of a five-year sentence for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, said he was originally pessimistic about Obama's visit and whether it will lead to improvements.

Obama is the first president to visit a federal prison while in office. He called for changes in the criminal justice system, saying a distinction had to be made between young people doing "stupid things" and violent criminals.

After meeting with him, Stewart said he believes the president was sincere. "The body language and the intensiveness that he had, I felt he was genuine," he said.

Bobby Reed, who did not meet with Obama but appeared in the documentary, called the president's interaction with the prisoners "a bold step."

Reed, 57, of Fort Worth, Texas, said he hopes the film encourages the public and Congress to revisit "tough on crime" sentencing guidelines for nonviolent drug offenders and focus on "common-sense policies" that punish offenders without destroying their lives.

"I believe we should do time for doing wrong or violating the law, but the amount of time is totally out of touch," said Reed, who described his own life sentence for conspiracy to distribute cocaine as "a throwaway sentence." □

## Don Henley casts all-star guests for new country album

KRISTIN M. HALL

Associated Press

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** — When the Eagles' Don Henley started looking for guest singers to accompany him on his new country album, he compared it to casting for a film.

"It's like reading a screenplay. Who would be the best to play this part?" Henley said. "I was extremely fortunate in that nobody turned me down."

The all-star cast on "Cass County," out Friday, includes Merle Haggard and Dolly Parton, along with Miranda Lambert, Trisha Yearwood and Vince Gill. Henley kicks off the album with a killer cover of "Bramble Rose" featuring

Lambert and Mick Jagger, who adopts a little twang in his voice and plays the harmonica.

"I emailed (Lambert) and said, 'What do you think if the guy who sang the last verse was Mick Jagger?' And she emailed me back and said, 'Well, hell yes!'" Henley said.

He wrote "The Cost of Living" with Haggard in mind. "We squeezed it out of him," Henley said with a smile. "He got a little cantankerous at one point. But he's allowed. He's 10 years my senior. By the end of the session, I was referring to him as 'sir.'"

When Henley asked Parton to duet with him on a cover of "When I Stop Dream-

ing" — a song she and Porter Wagoner performed together — Parton told him she normally doesn't sing so high.

"I love it when she strains, when she sings up that high voice and gets a little hoarse," he said.

Henley, 68, spent years recording "Cass County," his first new solo music in 15 years, in Texas, California and various studios around Nashville. He cut most of the album live in the studio singing with the band.

A noted preservationist, he made his album an ode to Americana by mixing roots rock, folk and pedal steel-heavy country music and throwing in songs made famous by the Louvin Brothers,



In this Sept. 17, 2015 photo, Don Henley poses at the CMT Studios in Nashville, Tenn., to promote his new country album, "Cass County," out on Sept. 25. Associated Press

ers, Joan Baez and Tammy Wynette. He lamented the factory quality of today's country music, but lauded authentic artists like Jason Isbell.

"I hear a lot of stuff that is more artifice than art, and there is a difference," he said. "It's always gone in

cycles, both here in Nashville and in Los Angeles. You get into a cycle of music that is very pop and shallow for a while and then someone comes along and begins a new wave of neo-traditional music. And it just goes round and round and round." □





In this Sept. 19, 2015 file photo, Republican presidential candidate, businessman Donald Trump holds a Bible as he speaks during the Iowa Faith & Freedom Coalition's annual fall dinner in Des Moines, Iowa.

Associated Press

## Putin, Trump open new '60 Minutes' season on CBS

**DAVID BAUDER**  
AP Television Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Producers at CBS are making four separate episodes of "60 Minutes" for Sunday, trying to fit in three stories that include two top-of-the-news interviews — with Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump. Charlie Rose traveled to Moscow for the two-hour meeting with the Russian leader, who talks about Syria, the Ukraine and his image in America. The Putin interview will lead the season-opening broadcast of the venerable newsmagazine, followed by Scott Pelley's attempt to pin down Trump on issues. Both interviews came together about the same time, and "60 Minutes" Executive Producer Jeff Fager said he didn't want to hold anything back. "The combination is irresistible," he said. The network has given "60 Minutes" extra time, which is both a blessing and a burden. The newsmagazine is making a two-hour episode, to air from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. for West Coast viewers. Since it's impossible to predict when the football game that precedes "60 Minutes" will end, separate hour-long, 75-minute and 90-minute

episodes are being made for other time zones. A third story, about Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman's escape, may or may not air Sunday outside of the West. Rose has pursued Putin for a few years. Fager said Putin and Russia appear to be feeling the effects of U.S. sanctions and the Russian leader believes the time is right to address the American people on the eve of a United Nations appearance. "He was sarcastic, he was witty, he was himself — we think," said Fager, who went to Moscow with Rose. "We're not sure he leveled with us every time, but it's a big interview." Putin denies that he's effectively another Russian czar. And he interrupts Rose with a wry smile when asked about his image in America: "Maybe they have nothing else to do in America but talk about me," he says. Earlier this week, Rose taped intros for the piece in a CBS studio, his apparent weariness making him trip over a few phrases he probably wouldn't otherwise. Fager and Rose huddled together to shorten the scripts. Rose said that in the interview, he felt Putin "wanted

to convey to us exactly how he saw the world without any posturing." Putin's last interview with "60 Minutes" a decade ago was one of Mike Wallace's last pieces for the show. With other broadcast newsmagazines turning more thematic, particularly with crime stories, it puts the CBS show in a better place to get news-making interviews, Fager said. But he said he doesn't want the show's balance to tip too much in favor of interviews at the expense of investigations or other pieces. Trump has been like a drug to ratings-starved television shows as he burst ahead of the Republican presidential field. This week was another close-to-home example: Stephen Colbert of CBS' "Late Show" reached his largest audience since his premiere on the night that Trump was a guest. "60 Minutes" cannot resist, either, and Pelley uses the opportunity to press the candidate for specifics on issues like taxes, education, defense and immigration, Fager said. The show's editing alone makes it a different experience than the call-in interviews he does with many other networks. □



This image released by TLC shows, from left, Ben Seewald, Jessa Seewald, Jill Dillard, holding her baby Israel Dillard and Derik Dillard.

Associated Press

## TLC specials to focus on Duggar daughters Jill and Jessa

**FRAZIER MOORE**  
AP Television Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Months after a scandal involving a member of the Duggar family shut down TLC's long-running reality hit "19 Kids and Counting," the network is resuming its on-air relationship with the Arkansas brood by starring daughters Jill and Jessa in two or more specials. Production begins soon on the programs, announced Thursday, with an anticipated airdate by year-end for at least the first of them. Two or three are currently planned, the network said. So far untitled, they will feature Jill Dillard, 24, who, with her husband, Derick, and their infant son are preparing to move to El Salvador for missionary work, and sister Jessa Seewald, 22, who with her husband Ben is expecting their first child on Nov. 1. A production source who spoke on the condition of anonymity said the programs will not include 27-year-old Josh Duggar, the oldest of the Duggar siblings and the subject of revelations last May that, as a teenager, had fondled four of his sisters, in-

cluding Jill and Jessa. More recently he publicly apologized for a pornography addiction and cheating on his wife. The source said he will not appear on any future TLC programming. "What we will be following in these specials is Jessa preparing for her first child," TLC Executive Vice President and General Manager Nancy Daniels told The Associated Press, "and we'll be watching Jill preparing to make a major move to Central America with her family, which we know is something our audience will be interested in." The project, Daniels said, came together quickly "after talking with the girls and understanding that this was something they wanted to do." "We know that our audience is really excited about what's been going on with Jill and Jessa as they move into young adulthood," said Daniels. "And now they're both at the precipice of big changes. With what was happening in their lives in the next few months, it felt like now is the time (for the specials), and we got going pretty quickly." □





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